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RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0629

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000119

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/CE, EUR/ERA, EAP/CM, PM/RSAT, ISN/RA

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TAGS: PGOV PREL EZ PARM CH EUN

SUBJECT: CZECHS VIEW LIFTING EU CHINA ARMS EMBARGO AS
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

REF: A. STATE 13969

1B. BLAHA-BERGEMANN E-MAIL DATED 2/23/2010

Classified By: POLEC Counselor Charles O. Blaha for reasons 1.4 (d).

(C) Emboffs discussed the EU's arms embargo on China and USG support for this with Czech MFA Political Director Ivo Sramek on February 23. Sramek noted that in the last few weeks the Spanish Ambassador had been to see him to inquire whether the Czechs would support a possible Spanish EU Presidency initiative to lift the embargo. Sramek stated to emboffs and the Spanish Ambassador that it was the GOCR's view that lifting the embargo would be "counterproductive." Sramek also commented that the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy is still consensus driven and that the Czechs do not plan to support such an initiative, if the Spanish do indeed decide eventually to make such a proposal.

Thompson-Jones